

RESOLUTION 2007- 5

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL MAIL DELIVERY

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service, founded in 1775, provides dependable, affordable mail service to Montana communities; and

WHEREAS, the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service has recommended changes to postal operations that could sever postal employees from federal employee health, retirement, and workers' compensation programs and has recommended repeal of laws that could pave the way toward reducing rank-and-file wages and benefits while simultaneously eliminating the current salary cap on executive level postal positions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has proposed to refine the scope of the United States Postal Service's "universal service" obligation and uniform rate structure and change and restrict the scope of services currently protected under postal monopoly regulations; and

WHEREAS, the new board's broad authority could allow post offices to be closed and prices to be set with a complicated postage rate structure or could turn over postal operations to private, for-profit enterprises; and

WHEREAS, in the interim period prior to legislated postal reform, the United States Postal Service may move forward with initiatives to close postal facilities in Montana; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service could consolidate the processing of mail in Montana, including moving all Helena outgoing mail-sorting operations to Great Falls; and

WHEREAS, this consolidation would not serve the public's best interest because of the decrease in productivity compared to the current processing of mail in Helena; and

WHEREAS, the consolidation could result in the elimination of the agency's current obligation to deliver local mail overnight and could relax other mail delivery standards across Montana; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the Helena area would be negatively impacted as a result of the relaxation of overnight delivery standards; and

WHEREAS, the public health and the public services provided by state agencies would be negatively impacted as a result of the relaxation of overnight delivery standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY COMMISSION:

That the Lewis and Clark County Commission urges the Governor of the State of Montana, the State Legislature and the members of Montana's Congressional Delegation to request that the President, the Congress of the United States, and the United States Postal Service continue to maintain affordable, dependable mail service at current levels because of its social and economic importance to our nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any recommendation from the President's Commission on the United States Postal Service or the United States Postal Rate Commission that curtails public services in the current postal service be rejected.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lewis and Clark County Commission opposes any changes that would harm the public and workers of the United States Postal Service, including legislated or United States Postal Service initiatives to close or consolidate postal facilities, relax overnight delivery standards, centralize mail-sorting operations, take away or modify the collective bargaining system of postal workers, or change the current bargaining system for employee benefits.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent by the Lewis and Clark County Clerk and Recorder to the Governor of the State of Montana, the leadership of the Montana State Legislature and each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of January 2007.

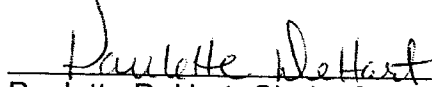
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Michael A. Murray, Chairman


Ed Tinsley, Vice-Chairman


Andy Hunthausen, Member

ATTEST:


Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board